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IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

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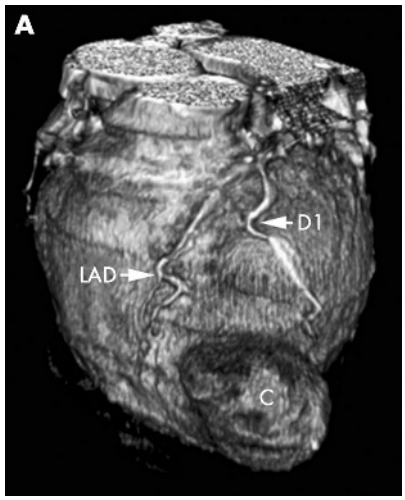
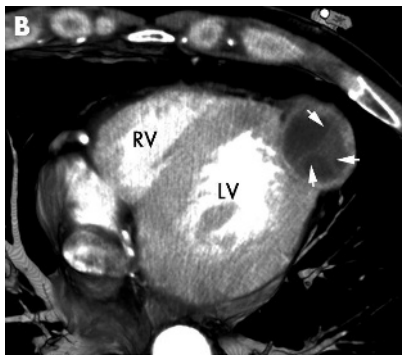
Intramyocardial echinococcal cyst demonstrated by multislice computed tomography





A 52-year-old man was admitted to our hospital because of palpitations and fatigue. The physical examination was normal. A 12 lead ECG showed sinus tachycardia. The indirect haemagglutination test was negative but there was pronounced eosinophilia. Transthoracic echocardiography showed a suspicious lesion in the left ventricular apex, which could have been a cardiac hydatid cyst. Transoesophageal echocardiography was proposed but the patient was unable to tolerate it. Enhanced multislice computed tomography (MCT) was performed. Volume rendered images revealed a 3 × 2.5 cm cystic structure planed in left ventricular apex (panel A: C, cyst; D1, diagonal artery; LAD, left anterior descending artery). An axial maximal intensity projection image clearly showed septates within the cyst (panel B: LV, left ventricle; RV, right ventricle). With a diagnosis of echinococcosis, the patient was referred for surgical resection of the mass. Analysis of the resected specimen revealed it to be a hydatid cyst.

Transthoracic echocardiography is usually the initial diagnostic test in patients with a suspected cardiac mass. However, this technique is restricted by its small field of views and insufficient acoustic window in some patients. MCT allows for detailed delineation of intra- and pericardiac masses. As a result, we wanted to present the MCT images of the left ventricular cyst that we could not evaluate echocardiographically.

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